



**Minutes  
Tempe Veterans Commission  
November 1, 2016**

Minutes for the Tempe Veterans Commission Meeting held on November 1, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Tempe Public Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room, 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

**Commission Members Present**

Keith Finkle, Chair  
Michelle Bravo, Vice-Chair  
Mario Aguirre (telephonically)  
Troy Friedman  
Dale Groen  
Patricia Little-Upah  
Michelle Lopusky (telephonically)  
David Lucier  
Laura Skotnicki

**Commission Members Absent**

Bryan Durham  
Scott Essex, Secretary

**Staff Present**

Valerie Kime Trujillo, Human Services Deputy Director  
Parrish Spisz, Council Aide

**Public Appearances**

Bernard Hilton, Tempe Resident and Marine Corps Veteran

**Item 1 – Meeting Called to Order at 6:02 PM**

**Item 2 – Public Appearances – Bernard Hilton**

Bernard Hilton, Tempe Resident and Marine Corps Veteran introduced himself and offered his support to the Commission in their efforts.

### **Item 3 – Review and Approval of October 4, 2016 Minutes**

Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo noted an error in the October 4, 2016 Minutes; Item 10 announcement was not made by Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo as she was not present and was made by Commission Member Michelle Loposky.

Motion by Commission Member David Lucier to approve minutes as amended; Motion seconded by Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo; Motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 4 – Continued Veterans Parade Discussion from October 4, 2016 Meeting**

The Commission continues to express their interest in participating in the Veterans Day Parade. Council Aide Parrish Spisz suggested meeting with Jim Groen and then inviting him to a Veterans Commission meeting. Chair Keith Finkle and Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo offered to meet with Jim Groen before the December 6, 2016 meeting. Chair Keith Finkle noted he will be present at the parade.

### **Item 5 – Tempe Based Businesses Update (*Combined with Item 6*)**

#### **Item 6 – Mayor's Recognition of Veteran Supportive Employers - City Council Meeting, November 3, 6:00PM, City Council Chambers**

Commission Member Mario Aguirre and Human Services Deputy Director confirmed there are six (6) employers who are attending the Mayor's Recognition of Veteran Supportive Employers out of eight (8) employers who have completed the training. Commission Member Mario Aguirre will work with Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo on representation for Arizona State University. The City of Tempe Public Information Officer is compiling the press release. The Commission continues to express interest in working with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce to gain more employers.

### **Item 7 – Post Stand for Veterans Event Report**

Commission Member Troy Friedman thanked the Commission in their support and efforts in the Stand for Veterans Event. 57 Veterans registered and/or participated through Goodwill, 32 employers and 30 vendors attended. At the after action report meeting, the Department of Economic Security and a number of employers reported success. Discussion has begun for scheduling an event in the Spring, tentative date for March 16, 2017. Steve Yamamori, Vice President of Veteran Initiatives Maricopa Community Colleges Foundation was approached by the W.P. Carey Marketing Program where students are seeking a research project; Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo and Commission Member Troy Friedman will be meeting with Steve Yamamori to discuss the project and conducting a needs assessment for the event. Commission Member Troy Friedman stated Vice-Mayor Robin Arredondo-Savage suggested presenting to the East Valley Partnership to discuss working together moving forward. Chair Keith Finkle praised Commission Members Troy Friedman and Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo in their work and expressed his excitement for next year's event.

### **Item 8 – Post Groundbreaking for Valor on Eighth Report**

Commission Member Laura Skotnicki reported the archaeology study is complete and construction will begin soon. Save the Family is working with Head Start to have an on-site facility. Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo would like to discuss a partnership with AmeriCorps and involving Arizona State University students; Commission Member Mario Aguirre offered his assistance with this discussion.

## **Item 9 – Finalize and Approve Annual Report**

The Commission reviewed the Annual Report and was told to submit any changes to staff by November 2, 2016. The Commission suggested formatting the Commission accomplishments into bullet points. Commission Member Laura Skotnicki will submit a target date of completion to lease up the Valor on Eighth Housing Project to Chair Keith Finkle as soon as possible. Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo suggested the following changes to the Commission Goals:

### ***Council Priority: Strong Community Connections***

- Further develop programs to recognize those entering service and returning from service/deployments

### ***Council Priority: Quality of Life***

- Lease up the Valor on Eighth Housing Project
- Raise awareness of the Veterans Commission and its work in the City of Tempe

Motion by Commission Member Laura Skotnicki to approve the 2016 Annual Report as amended; Motion seconded by Commission Member Patricia Little-Upah; Motion passed unanimously.

## **Item 10 – Strategic Planning - Tuesday, January 10, 2017 4:00 -8:00 PM – Meeting Room A & Saturday, January 14, 2017 8:00 AM-4:00 PM – Tempe Learning Center**

Human Services Deputy Director Valerie Kime Trujillo reported the location, time, and facilitator for the Strategic Planning dates have been confirmed.

## **Item 11 – Commission Member Announcements**

Commission Member Laura Skotnicki:

- Save the Family is sponsoring their families for Thanksgiving and Christmas and are looking for 300 sponsorships for each holiday.

Commission Member Troy Friedman:

- New director at Rio Salado College is Steve Yamamori
  - His primary focus is the Veterans Center
  - The West Valley Center is coming online within the next two weeks, located at the old visitor center outside of Luke Air Force Base
    - Location is temporary

Commission Member David Lucier:

- November 7, 2016 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM - Heard Museum – Veterans Appreciation event, guest speaker Richard Carmona

Commission Member Mario Aguirre:

- December 16, 2016 from 9:00 – 12:00 - Navigator Training at the Goodwill Headquarters

Commission Member Michelle Loposky:

- November 8, 2016 – Salute to Service at Arizona State University

Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo:

- November 10, 2016 from 12:00 – 2:00 - Downtown Arizona State University Campus, A.E. Building - Public Service Academy students are honoring Veterans
  - Congressman Gallego will be speaking at event
  - Devon Mitchell of the Veterans Vision Project
  - Any organizations interested in having a table at event are welcome to contact Vice-Chair Michelle Bravo

Chair Keith Finkle:

- Requested any dates of events send to Melissa Placencia to distribute to the Commission in one email.

**Item 12 – Next Meeting Agenda Items December 6, 2016**

- **Recap of Recognition for Veterans Supportive Employers**
- **Discuss working with Tempe Chamber of Commerce**
- **Arizona Coalition Pilot Program – Commission Member Mario Aguirre**

**Item 13 – Adjournment**

Next meeting to be held on December 6, 2016, Tempe Public Library, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Board Room, at 3500 S. Rural Road, Tempe, Arizona 85282.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Placencia

Reviewed by: Valerie Kime Trujillo

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Keith Finkle,  
Chair, Tempe Veterans Commission